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INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR AND CONSULTANTS,
INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION -
September 11, 1950 - in Office of Director

Present:

Department of State - Mr. Sargeant - Acting Director
Mr. Stone - Executive Secretary
Mr. Oechsner
Mr. Phillips

Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard
Central Intelligence Agency - [redacted]

Economic Cooperation Administration - Mr. Berding

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As Acting Chairman, Mr. Sargeant introduced Mr. Andrew Berding, who has been appointed liaison representative of the Economic Cooperation Administration.

Taking up the first item on the agenda, [redacted] introduced [redacted] of CIA who presented a summary of the technical report on balloons by the Joint Meteorological Committee. [redacted] reviewed the various types of balloons now available, techniques for use of balloons as propaganda carrying devices, meteorological factors and current information on accuracy.

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Mr. Berding reported on the use of toy balloons by ECA in connection with Marshall Plan exhibits in Europe. He noted that 207,000 small rubber balloons have been released by individuals during the past few months. Each balloon has carried a message and return post card. Approximately ten percent of the post cards have been returned; fifty cards have been returned from the Iron Curtain area. The maximum radius of these toy balloons is five hundred miles. ECA plans call for a number of similar projects in Germany, Italy and other European countries. Mr. Berding undertook to arrange for further analysis and evaluation by the Paris office of ECA.

No decision was taken by the Board on the balloon paper; it was agreed, however, to continue discussion of this subject at the special meeting on September 13.

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Turning to Item two on the agenda, Mr. Sargeant requested Mr. Phillips to report on the status of working groups. Mr. Phillips stated that three working groups have been set up to prepare psychological warfare plans:

1. China headed by Mr. George Taylor
2. Korea initiated by IFIS
3. Germany initiated by IFIS

In response to a question by Admiral Stevens, Mr. Stone stated that IFIS was considering similar projects covering certain other situations in addition to further work on the national organization recommended in NSC 74.

Admiral Stevens reported that he had forwarded to Mr. Barrett three copies of the psychological warfare plan prepared by JCS in support of current emergency war plans. He requested that special security precautions be observed in handling these papers and suggested that they be carefully reviewed. Admiral Stevens pointed out further that the State Department should prepare a similar plan covering its responsibilities and tasks in the event of war. After general discussion, Mr. Sargeant asked that the Executive Secretary report at the next meeting on target dates for completion of the State Department plan. General Magruder noted that the Defense Department had not yet forwarded its comments on NSC 74.

Mr. Phillips reported that the State Department Planning Staff is currently working on the political content of U. S. policy in the event of war with Russia, and that Mr. Barrett has been asked to prepare a report on psychological objectives. Mr. Schwinn, who has been assigned to this project, will be prepared to report at the next meeting.

Mr. Sargeant reported that the Secretary of State has forwarded the letter to the Secretary of Defense requesting Air Force support for relief of earthquake victims in Assam.

on adjourning the meeting, Mr. Sargeant reminded members of the special meeting on September 13 at Mr. Barrett's home.

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